



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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Interview with Prof. Nii Quaynor on Internet in Africa

Prof. Nii Quaynor graduated from Dartmouth College in 1972 with B.A (Engineering Science) and received a Ph.D (Computer Science) in distributed systems in 1977 from S.U.N.Y at Stony Brook. He worked with Digital Equipment Corporation in U.S.A from 1977 till 1992 when he retired and returned to Ghana to establish the first Internet Service operated by Network Computer Systems (NCS) in West Africa in 1993. Nii had earlier on in 1979 established the Computer Science department at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana. Nii, is the Convener of the African Network Operators Group (AfNOG), a network technology transfer institution since 2000 and the founding Chairman of AfriNIC, the African numbers registry. He has served on several Boards including ICANN and had been a member of the UN ICT Task Force and also the IGF Advisory Group at UN. He is currently the Board Chairman for National Information Technology Agency, (NITA) member of GhiPPS and National Identification Agency (NIA) Boards, Patron – Internet Society Ghana Chapter. He remains the Chairman of Ghana.COM and a Professor of Computer Science at University of Cape-Coast, Ghana. Nii was the recipient of the Internet Society's prestigious Jonathan B. Postel Service Award for pioneering work to Advance Internet in Africa in December 2007. Prof. Nii, is known as the Father of Internet in Africa.



Nii Quaynor

E-Newsletter: What can you tell us about internet in Africa?

Nii: I think we have done very well so far. I remember around the early 1990s we had practically no connection and around 1999-2000 we at least had a connection in every country. Now we have gone beyond secondary settings and we are enjoying abundance of international connectivity by way of cables. So we have moved away from depending on

more expensive lower bandwidth satellite solution to fiber. The current challenges we are facing is how to bring the same kind of technology inland so that there will be fiber between every district or every regional capitals. We have now reached that growth area where we are looking for heavy investment to increase the international connectivity with a much higher bandwidth solution. We have also done a good job in terms of building communities. You are aware that the internet works by communities believing in it and supporting it. Africa in particular, we have been blessed by early establishing a number of modules of communities such as the Number Resource community. We have also established the capacity building community where people who work for operators are training themselves. The business of self support I think has also helped the growth of internet in Africa and now it has become common to see variety of groups emerging and addressing different targeted areas like the Internet Exchange Point (IXP). So we are now creating a plethora of institutions that support different aspects of the internet growth. That has helped a lot because it has kept them together and in so doing we have been able to encourage each other. For me I think it has been pretty good so far.

E-Newsletter: The challenge you mentioned about the inland connectivity cable, how do you think that can be overcome?

Nii: Ok. I think for me a lot of these things are about local policy environment; meaning you have to come out with a policy that encourages investment and infrastructure and we need to come out with policies that encourages business in general and we need to also build policies that encourages corporations discussing. We need to accept that we do not agree, does not mean we can't work together. I may not love the person who carries my packet but at least I am able to talk to the person for him to carry my packets for me. I think those kind of policy enabling environment is the stage that we have reached and that is what will help; may I say increase the connectivity in the countries.

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much sir.

Editorial:

The E-Newsletter is 5 Year in Publication.



Going down memory lane, in the past **FIVE YEARS**, the maiden edition of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch E-Newsletter was published on July 5 2007. The second edition was published EXACTLY two weeks after the maiden edition was published. Since then, uninterruptedly, the E-Newsletter has been published every two weeks (bi-weekly). The quality and standard has improved over time. So far, 141 editions of the E-Newsletter has been published. Diverse interviews with veterans in various engineering and non engineering fields

have been published. To mention a few, some who were interviewed are:

1. Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE (President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers)
2. Engr. Chief O. A. Ajibola FNSE (Immediate Past President of the Nigerian Society of Engineer)
3. Engr. Mustapha Bulama FNSE, OON, (the late President of COREN)
4. Mrs. María Jesús Prieto-Laffargue (while she was the President of World Federation of Engineering Organization)
5. Engr. Gregs Thomopulos (while he was the President of International Federation of Consulting Engineers)
6. Engr. Prof. Y. O. Beredugo FNSE (Past

7. chairman of NSE PH Branch)
7. Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye FNSE (Past chairman of NSE PH Branch)
8. Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE (Deputy Vice Chancellor of Rivers State University of Science & Technology and past chairman of NSE PH Branch)
9. Dr. Vint Cerf (the IP/TCP Co-Designer and Vice President of Google)
10. Prof. Leonard Kleinrock (UCLA)
11. Lynn St Amour (President of Internet Society)

These interviews were done in various cities, states and countries. Happy **FIFTH** Birthday to the E-Newsletter of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt




COUNCIL FOR THE REGULATION OF ENGINEERING IN NIGERIA

Announces the

21st COREN ENGINEERING ASSEMBLY.

Theme:
ENGINEERING CAPACITY, INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Venue: International Conference Center, Abuja
Date: Tuesday 4th- Wednesday 5th September, 2012.
Time: 9.00 am
Registration:
Engineers & Technologists: N15,000 Pre-Registration on or before 3rd August, 2012 and N20,000 after 3rd August 2012
Technicians & Craftsmen: N7,500 Flat

The Nigerian Society of Engineers PH Branch General Meeting held on Thursday 28th June 2012 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat.

Right: Engr. Celestine Cliffe, General Manager, DrillPet International Limited, making a presentation on Advances in Directional Drilling Technology




Nigerian Society of Engineers
Port Harcourt Branch

In collaboration with
NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING BOARD & RIVERS STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Presents:

A WORKSHOP/EXHIBITIONS TO SHOWCASE NIGERIAN CONTENT GAINS, CHALLENGES & PROSPECTS

Date:
Monday 5th — Wednesday 11th July, 2012
Venue:
NSE Secretariat Water Works Yard #3 Bernard Carr Street, (back of Diere Spill Civic Centre) Port Harcourt Town.

FOR EXHIBITIONS
CALL: Michael - 08030871627 ; Washington - 08066003231

FOR enquires:
Engr. Ben Akaakar, MNSE
LOC Chairman - 08037543333
Engr. Denis A. A. Dania MNSE
NSE Branch Chairman - 07057790652

Sponsors:

University of Benin Alumni Association PH, Award Nite

The Honourable Commissioner for Information & Communications Rivers State, Mrs Tamunoibim Semenitari was among other alumni of the University of Benin Alumni Association Worldwide, who were honoured at the 71st Council meeting of the association which held on 23rd June 2012 in Port Harcourt. Council members from branches worldwide were represented. Reading the citations of the award recipients the chairman of the Rivers/Bayelsa branch of the worldwide association Dr Vincent Asor stated that their contributions towards the growth of the association at the branch were worthy of recognition. Speaking at the event, Chairman of the occasion and President Worldwide of the association Dr. Clement Kayode Oghene congratulated the recipients and encouraged them to do more with a view to clinching the prestigious association's worldwide Distinguished Alumnus (DA) award . Dr Oghene who had earlier in the morning at the Shell Guest House Conference centre presided over the council meeting, reiterated his resolve to complete the 1000 Lecture Theatre being built by the association for the university and called on members to contribute towards the laudable project.

Chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch, **Engr. Denis A. A. Dania**, who grabbed the 'Most Outstanding Alumnus' award responded on behalf of the recipients which includes Pastor David Aluyah-Ovih, Engr. Ejomon Ikpefan, Engr. Gideon Ikhine, Rev. Dr. David Eighemhenrio, Amb. William Odemwingie, Barr. Tonne Anoruewhom, and Engr. Fred Eje. Aluta re-echoed, as former Secretary General of the Students Union Government SUG Mr Andrew Ajayi who is now secretary of the Rivers/Bayelsa branch gave the vote of thanks.

Report written by Dr Isaac Ejebe, FNOA National PRO

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NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of NSE PH should pay their **Annual Branch Dues of N4,500 for Corporate Members and N6,500 for Fellows to UBA ACC. NO: 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription of N7,500.00 for Corporate Members & N9,500 for Fellows** directly to **Main Street Bank ACC No. 6500374224** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank